

Local Work Group Discussion for EQIP

Nicollet District FY08 EQIP

1. List the local resource concerns that EQIP can address:

- Improper Land application of manure and commercial fertilizer
- Soil Erosion with tillage being a primary concern
- Impaired water caused by concentrated flow
- Erosion in the cropland/bluff land interface
- Grazing Management
- Rare and Declining prairie habitat

2. If applicable, list any geographic regions (i.e. watersheds, townships, etc.) and their respective resource concerns within the District to receive priority:

- Wellhead areas of the communities of St. Peter, New Ulm, Lafayette, Nicollet, Courtland and DWSMA's
- Countywide well sealings
- Seven Mile Creek and Rush River watersheds looking at turbidity caused by soil erosion and high nutrient and fecal coliform levels in water caused by improper land application of manure and commercial fertilizer
- The immediate watersheds of Swan Lake and Middle Lake looking at turbidity caused by soil erosion and high nutrient and fecal coliform levels in water caused by improper land application of manure and commercial fertilizer and looking at wildlife habitat.

3. From items 1 & 2 above prioritize the local resource concerns to be addressed with EQIP funding for the district. Describe a minimum of 3 categories of the highest priority applications which you would want to receive funding.

A. Erosion Control	High	9
B. Gully Control	High	9
C. Water Resource	High	10
D. Wastewater/CNMP	High	10
E. Habitat Improvement	Medium	7
F. Air Quality	Low	4
G. Impaired Water	High	9
H. Distance	Medium	7
I. Grazing System	Medium	6
J. Forest Management	Low	4
K. Additional Local	High	10

4. Develop a minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 yes/no questions to determine if an application is addressing the high priority concerns described in item 3.

Erosion Control-Both sheet and rill and gully erosion:

1. Will the installed practice reduce soil erosion to T or less on the offered acres?

3 Points

2. Will practices such as a Terrace, Water and Sediment Control basin, Grassed Waterway, Grade Stabilization Structure, or other erosion control structure be installed to control gully erosion on offered acres?

10 Points

3. Are the upland watershed acres associated with the drainage area of the practice treated to address sheet and rill erosion to T or less?

3 Points

4. Is the landowner/operator willing to add a buffer in front of the erosion control structure to reduce sediment loss and minimize channelized conveyance?

5 Points

Water Resources and Impaired Waters:

1. Is practice being installed in the watershed of an impaired waters site? (See 2006 TMDL Map)

1 Point

2. Will the installed practice be within 500 feet of receiving waters? (Including lakes, streams, ditches, tile intakes and gully heads)

5 Points

3. Will the installed practice be within 1,000 feet of receiving waters? (Including lakes, streams, ditches, tile intakes and gully heads)

3 Points

Wastewater/CNMP:

1. Will the installed practice eliminate all runoff from the livestock system?

10 Points

2. Will a CNMP (Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan) or a 590 Nutrient Management Plan be developed?

5 Points

Additional Local:

1. Will these practices that be installed in the watersheds of Seven Mile Creek or the Rush River?

10 Points

2. Will this practice be installed in the Swan Lake Project Area (including the watersheds of Swan and Middle Lake) and will address Water Quality and or Wildlife Habitat resource concerns and issues?

10 Points

3. Will the practice be installed in an identified well-head protection area of Nicollet County? (See Map)

10 Points

4. Is the practice to be installed a well sealing or decommissioning?

5 Points

5. **Assign points to the questions in Item #4 as desired to reflect local priorities. The total points assigned to the questions must equal exactly 40 points.**

Completed

6. **List any recommended practices to be deleted from the state Conservation Practice Payment Document**

None

**EQIP Local Work Group Development Meeting
October 10, 2007
St. Peter, MN 56082**

Members Present: Bill Hohenstein, Nicollet SWCD Board Member; Ed Hohenstein, Brown Nicollet Cottonwood Water Quality Board; Kevin Ostermann, Nicollet SWCD Manager; Steve Luther, Nicollet FSA CED; Rob Redding, Nicollet County Planning and Zoning; Deanna Biehn, Nicollet County Feedlot Officer; Kristy Zajac, DNR; Ken Rossow, Nicollet County Bank; Stephanie McLain, St. Peter District Conservationist

Bill Hohenstein called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees. Stephanie McLain began discussion with a review of last year's local work group meeting results and requested input on changes. Kristy Zajac felt that wildlife was a resource concern that EQIP can address that isn't ranked locally high enough in Nicollet County. Discussion ensued and after a vote, the group decided that habitat would stay a medium priority. Kristy input a compromise of instead of having habitat improvement as a high priority that we should add Swan Lake Watershed as a priority area and add questions under the "additional local" pertaining to Swan Lake. The group agreed to this.

Discussion was brought up on controlled drainage and when this will be a Minnesota cost-share EQIP practice.

Ed Hohenstein from BNC brought up the idea of adding a local ranking question for erosion control structures that gives increased points to applicants willing to add a buffer in front of the structure to slow down water flow and allow sediment to drop out. The group agreed this would be a good question and decided to add it under the erosion control section.

The group also decided to increase the weight of Gully erosion from an 8 to a 9.